

**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2009 AT 7:15 PM
RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO CHAMBER
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

- 1. ROLL CALL:** A regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order at 7:15 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Present for the meeting were Councilors Stephen P. Corbett, Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney, Susan G. Falkoff, Jonathan Hecht, Angeline B. Kounelis, Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., John J. Lawn, Jr., Vice President Mark Sideris and Council President Clyde L. Younger. Also present were Town Manager Michael J. Driscoll, Town Attorney Mark Reich and Council Clerk Valerie Papas.

- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A Moment of Silence was held for Phyllis Ryan and Jack Wilsher.

- 3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: May 12th AND May 26th.**

Councilor Devaney moved the minutes of May 12th as amended. There being no second, the motion failed. Councilor Sideris moved to accept the minutes of May 12th as written, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Sideris moved to accept the minutes of May 26th as written, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote.

- 4. PUBLIC FORUM: No comments noted.**

Councilor Sideris moved to Suspend the Rules in order to bring forward agenda item 8A a) Acceptance of Proclamations: In recognition of Anthony R. Basile's 90th birthday and the rededication of the Founder's Monument – Clyde L. Younger; Paul DerBoghossian's 50th birthday – Angeline B. Kounelis. Adopted by voice vote.

The Chair read and presented a proclamation honoring the upcoming 90th birthday of World War II Veteran, Anthony R. Basile. Mr. Basile thanked the Council for the honor.

The Chair read a previously presented proclamation recognizing the rededication of the Founder's Monument. Councilor Hecht provided a recap of Saturday's events which was well attended by residents and public officials.

Councilor Kounelis read and presented a proclamation recognizing the 50th birthday of Paul DerBoghossian. Mr. DerBoghossian thanked the Council for the honor.

Councilor Sideris moved to accept the proclamations, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by voice vote.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND FINANCE:

- a) Motion to have the Public Hearing and Vote on a proposed Order establishing Water and Sewer Rates and Charges for Fiscal Year 2010 deferred to the June 23, 2009 Town Council Meeting in order to advertise the required Public Notice. Councilor Sideris moved to defer the public hearing to June 23rd, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by voice vote.

- b) Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget.
The Chair read a statement regarding the procedures for the public hearing and action on the Fiscal Year 2010 budget (attached). The Chair recognized the Manager who provided a brief overview of the proposed budget, noting the projected decrease in State aid by \$3 million below the Fiscal Year 2009 level. The Manager asked to continue action on the proposed budget to June 23rd in order to allow for continued discussions with the Fire and School Departments. The Chair opened up the hearing to the public. There being no comments, the hearing was closed.

- c) Motion to have consideration and action on the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget continued until the June 23, 2009 Town Council Meeting. Councilor Sideris moved to defer Council consideration and action on the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget to the June 23rd Town Council meeting, seconded by Councilor Hecht and adopted by voice vote.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) Committee on Economic Development and Planning report on Right-of-Way Acquisition – Jonathan Hecht, Chair. It was noted that at a Special Meeting of the Town Council, the Council voted not to move forward with acquisition of a right of way at Patton Street/railroad. Councilor Devaney moved to accept the written report, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote.

7. MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- a) Previously Adopted -Acceptance of Proclamations.
- b) Resolution authorizing a transfer of funds of \$20,990 from the Fiscal Year 2009 Town Council Reserve to the Fiscal Year 2009 Cable Access Grant in order to fund a grant to the Watertown Cable Access Corporation for the purchase of cameras, LCD monitors and broadcast equipment intended to improve the broadcast of governmental meetings from the Town Council Chamber to the general public in the interest of public support and stimulation. The Chair recognized the Manager who provided a brief overview of the transfer. Councilor Sideris moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- c) Resolution Approving the Acceptance and Expenditure of a Gift of Funds in the amount of \$2,350 from the Watertown Savings Bank to fund 50% of the purchase and installation of Pachysandra for the Columbus Delta in Watertown Square. The Chair recognized the Manager who provided a brief overview of the Gift of Funds. Councilor Sideris moved to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilor Lawn and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

9. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The Chair reported that requests have been made for financial assistance from the Edinburg Center and Family Network. The Ad Hoc Charitable Committee will meet to discuss the funding requests. The Chair also reported that the annual Relay For Life event will take place on Saturday, June 13th. Luminary bags can be purchased at Watertown Savings Bank.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

- a) Request for Confirmation of reappointments to the Housing Authority and Traffic Commission.

Councilor Sideris moved to refer the Housing Authority reappointments to the Subcommittee of Human Services, seconded by Councilor Falkoff and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Sideris moved to refer the Traffic Commission reappointments to the Subcommittee of Public Safety, seconded by Councilor Kounelis and adopted by voice vote.

11. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Councilor Kounelis requested a follow up with the Manager, legal counsel and other appropriate department heads regarding the disrepair of 18 Windsor Avenue.

Councilor Kounelis requested an update on the former Wells Avenue municipal parking lot.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Kounelis announced that the State's Judiciary Committee has not yet taken up a matter regarding Marijuana legislation. A proposed Marijuana Ordinance is currently in the Rules and Ordinance subcommittee. Police Chief Deveau has indicated that there is no urgency in taking up the matter and thus Councilor Kounelis announced that the Rules and Ordinance subcommittee will begin discussion on the matter again sometime in September.

The Chair thanked DPW Superintendent Gerald S. Mee, Jr., and his crew for their painstaking efforts in the preservation of trees during the reconstruction of various roads in Watertown. The Chair noted his appreciation for their hard work and asked the Council for a thank you letter to acknowledge this along with the police department's traffic mitigation efforts.

Councilor Sideris moved to write a thank you letter on behalf of the Town Council as requested, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by voice vote.

Councilor Falkoff suggested referring to the Public Works subcommittee, the maintenance of trees during this reconstruction project. Councilor Sideris concurred with the request.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that while he appreciates the hard work of the public works crews, the real issue is that of contractors who have not been as careful as

they should be. He indicated that a second look at the contract language would ensure that the town's financial investment in trees is protected and if any trees are damaged, the town is reimbursed. Councilor Falkoff concurred.

The Chair suggested that the Manager place a presentation on the July agenda regarding this matter and that the Conservation/Tree Agent be requested to attend as well. Councilor Sideris moved the matter, seconded by Councilor Hecht and adopted by voice vote.

13. PUBLIC FORUM – none noted.

14. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Councilor Sideris moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli and adopted by unanimous vote.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted on June 23, 2009 as written, by voice vote.